

2013 Needs Assessment for Sumter County

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Tommy Bryan
Janice Desmond

Diane Williams
Deann Fleming
Winston Roswell
Tyrone Clark
Gail Fitch
Shirley Carter
George A. Montgomery

Accomplishments

Children of the Village Network, Inc., is Sumter County Children's Policy Council. Our annual accomplishments are noted in the attached minutes.

Briefly, our sustained programs involved the

1. Foodbank that distributes the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month to approximately 200 clients total per month. June 2013.
2. COTV foodbank Brown Bag program distributes monthly food stuff to 49 senior citizens within the county.
- 3, In partnership with Pizza Hut, COTV distributes pizza to after-school, athletes, day cares and housing development residents every Tuesday and Thursday.
4. Electronic monitoring is ongoing and a monitoring device is attached as necessary to a juvenile/adult.

June 2013

COTV submitted a Alabama Dept. of Youth Services/Promoting Positive Youth Grant to sustain funding for a electronic monitoring agent. This grant has eliminated the need for DYS detention. It permits juveniles to remain in their home environment while being monitored. Currently there are no children on electronic monitoring. This is a awesome program that should be continued to assist juveniles in Sumter County.

Confirmation was received of funding in a partnership with Southern Prevention Associates, and Black Belt Community Foundation.

May 2013

Completion of Books-A-Million literacy campaign for 3rd graders.

COTV and Sumter Co. District Court held it's annual Fairy Tale Mock Trial for local 3rd graders.

National Letter Carriers Association food drive donation 2013 to COTV food-bank.

COTV filmed and began broadcast of the television psa regarding distracted driving. The high school JROTC Unit performed the skit that was filmed by WTOK-TV.

April 2013

Final approval of publication of "Back Then".

COTV Board of Directors meeting was conducted on April 23.

March 2013

Kick-off to Combat Literacy with Books-A-Million field trip began with York West End Jr. High School. Each student was permitted to select book(s) that were paid for by COTV.

Presentation to board members of Sumter Co. Board of Education regarding the development of the distracted driving psa.

February 2013

Meeting with JROTC instructors regarding the development of the distracted driving psa.

December 2012

COTV and Sumter County District Court held the annual "Guns and Drugs Are Out" Mock Trial for 4th graders.

November 2012

COTV headquarter grounds landscaping.

October 2012

COTV participated and contributed Halloween items to Town of Gainesville.

COTV presented Wheels & Spokes Motorcycle Club 1st generation of the campus of University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

September 2012

COTV presented the Charles & Alice Hines Jackson Scholarship at the Sumter Co. Courthouse.

August 2012

COTV Health Committee met with United Way of West Alabama, Jackie Wuska.

July 2012

COTV Education Committee met with Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama Community Development Manager, Joyce Weiss.

June 2012

COTV Board of Directors meeting at Sumter Co. Courthouse. November

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

Measures to ensure the safety of children include depleting the abused or endangered children. The measures include rehabilitating the parent or primary care-giver by providing parenting skills training and providing reasonable efforts to reunite the family unit to make the declining trend of indicated cases an expected ongoing trend.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Resources available in our county include: Children of the Village Network, Inc. (CPC) Livingston & York Police Department Sumter County Sheriff's Office Sumter Fire and Rescue Department, Sumter Co. Dept. of Human Resources, Alabama Beverage Control, Local Municipal Government Local Media, Sumter Co. Record Journal, WTOK-TV, WVUA, WZMJ, 106.5 Radio Station University of West Alabama Bulletin Board for Advertisement, Grants and partnership with companies and corporations	Financial resources to hire a director to stabilize the deliver of core programs. Financial resources for capital expenses and ongoing operational expenses. Financial resources for manpower and employees to staff the COTV Family ResourceCenter. Stipend for mentors to juveniles

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to host the Annual 'Guns and Drugs Are Out Mock Trial for all 4th graders and the Annual Fairy Tale Mock Trial for 3rd graders in the Sumter County School System to impress upon them that there are consequences for their actions.
2. Children of the Village Network-Juvenile Refinement Program began in March 2012. This newly implemented program is designed to provide intervention and prevention services for youth between the ages of 14-17. The program will provide a positive alternative for juveniles engaged in the early stages of criminal behavior. Youth will participate in the program for eight (8)weeks. Youth will receive assistance in learning how to make healthy choices regarding tobacco, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, life skills and career choices. During the program period youths will be drug screened to encourage their sobriety.
3. We will continue to host the Annual 'Fatal Vision' Program for 11th grade students in the Sumter County school system who are attending their high school prom. This program is designed to provide anti-alcohol and anti-drug intervention to dissuade students from drinking, driving and abusing drugs. We will continue to position a mannequin dressed in a tuxedo or evening gown at each high school a week prior to their prom. The mannequin will have a placard reading. 'I used to drink and drive until I lost my head.'
4. Field trip to the courthouse for poster contest indicating artistic expression during both mock trials.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Our area is largely poverty stricken due to the lack of manufacturing jobs. Children suffer due to the economic plight of their parents. Many single parents families survive on food stamps, TANF(Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and social security disability benefits. Jobs that are out of the county are prohibitive because of the lack of transportation, transportation costs and fluctuating energy costs.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Children of the Village Network, Inc.(CPC) Children of the Village Network, Inc. Food Bank & Clothing Closet National Association of Letters Carriers (food collection) West Alabama Food Bank Corporate partners such as: Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut and West Alabama Bank & Trust Sumter County Department of Human Resources	Financial resources to fund parent leadership conferences Jobs for adults and juveniles Funding for honors and merit programs

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. We will offer our 8 week Effective Parenting Course as long as personnel and funding is available.
2. Our food bank continues to distribute twice monthly to eligible persons and Brown Bag distribution monthly to 49 senior citizens.
3. PSA regarding food bank distribution.
4. PSA regarding distracted driving.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Combating illiteracy is one of our core issues in Sumter County. Our CPC funds a field trip to the local Books-A-Million bookstore to children in 3rd grade. Our CPC offers three scholarships to local public school graduates that become sophomores in college

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Children of the Village Network, Inc. (CPC) Books-A-Million Pizza Hut Wheels & Spokes Motorcycle Club Local banks and businesses PSA's in the media including area newspaper and t.v. about scholarships. Individual financial donors	Lack of funds to continue the overnight educational honors incentive trip. Depletion of funds to continue the book donation to school libraries. Lack of funding for the annual Books-A-Million field trip for local students; limited field trip to 3rd graders only.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Children of the Village Network, Inc. participated in the Read Across America Campaign. During the Fairy Tale Mock Trial a book was distributed to each 3rd grade student featuring the selected fairy tale.
2. In 2012 COTV Scholarship Awardees: Wheels & Spokes Scholarship 1st generation Shankitta Brown \$500 and Charles & Alice Hines Jackson Scholarship was awarded to Brittney Green for academics. Our funding enabled us to continue the interest bearing CD which will fund one scholarship per year.
3. We continued our Scholarship Program to high school graduates from Sumter County public schools. The Wheels & Spokes Motorcycle Club continual commitment to donating funds each year to maintain their scholarship.
4. Our CPC funded a Books-A-Million field trip to local 3rd grade students within the school system.
5. COTV continued its partnership with the Pizza Hut Harvest Program. Donated food pieces from Pizza Hut are donated to local schools to feed students who participate in the athletic and after-school programs. During the summer the foods pieces are donated to local softball clubs, local day-care centers and housing developments within the county.
6. PSA's in the media including newspaper and tv about scholarships